



VUOLENKOSKI

Community engagement as a driver of rural life



Vuolenkoski - Key Facts

- Just under 500 residents, 210 households
- Approximately 2,500 seasonal residents
- Rural school with three teachers
- Nuppula daycare centre
- New daycare building completed in August 2024
- Around 20 active associations and community bodies
- Around 70 companies/entrepreneurs
- Located 135 km from Helsinki, 35 km from Lahti, 25 km from Heinola and 100 km from Kotka
- Strong service offering: school, daycare, grocery shop, farm shop and farm, waterfront restaurant, craft café, bakery café, and many local entrepreneurs



Strong culture of working together

- Community engagement has developed over several decades
- Village Association founded in 1980
- Land Bank established in the late 1990s
- Pedestrian and cycling path built between 1999 and 2001
- Omakylä Vuolenkoski Ltd founded in 2008
- Sports Hall completed in 2018
- Village Centre completed in 2021



Investing in the Community

Over the years, residents have invested
500 000 € in developing the village





Omakylä Vuolenkoski Ltd

- Village development company established in autumn 2008
- Non-profit limited company
- Zoned area 7.2 ha
- 155 permanent and seasonal residents and entrepreneurs as shareholders (414 shares)
- Share capital raised locally: €78,600
- Koskenranta zoning area: 7.2 hectares

Services and businesses are important

- Village centre includes a grocery shop, shared community facilities and workspace for entrepreneurs (e. g. barber, massage)
- Several businesses employ local and nearby residents
- Seasonal jobs are available for young people locally, reducing the need to commute



School and daycare, villages ♥



School 100th Anniversary, Autumn 2023



Daycare Centre Opening, Autumn 2024



Shared Goal

- The community's goal is to attract new people and residents, recognising that this is the only way to sustain existing services. Children and young people are at the heart of development efforts.
- The village takes responsibility for its own services, has contributed significant local funding to major projects, and volunteers even demolished the old building to make way for the new daycare centre.
- To attract families with children, essential services must be available either in the village or within easy reach nearby.



The Importance of Village Action

- Has required goal-oriented work over the long term
- Individuals grow into the community, helping the community become stronger
- A strong community provides the foundation for a good life, both locally and elsewhere
- Also creates conditions for diverse business activity in the village area

"A person's task is to help another person. Community spirit always requires effort."

– Jussi Mentu, retired principal of Vuolenkoski School



“When you build a place you enjoy yourself, your actions also contribute to the common good.”

